

# Harrington Park Recreation Commission

## Minutes of Meeting

October 16, 2012

### **Commission**

Chris Apostle	Absent
Jerry Esposito	Present
Jennifer Brackenbury	Present
Mickey Franklin	Absent
Tom Gleason	Present
Steve Marotta	Present
Steve Pacicco	Present

Town Council Liaison: Allan Napolitano

Secretary: Michael Amdur

Meeting called to order at 8:10 PM

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Call to order. In compliance with the Sunshine Act of 1975, adequate notice of this meeting was made.

### **UPDATES**

- a) **Finances** – Steve P. will provide/print the financial worksheets at a future date.
- b) **Ragamuffin Parade** – Jen B. had not done anything yet concerning the Ragamuffin Parade because she waited to double-check about being allowed a couple hundred dollars. Steve P. replied that she is allowed to access the money. Jen tried to get the pumpkins for free, however, local farms have been unwilling to donate.

The Ragamuffin Parade will be at 10 AM on October 27.

Jen proposed doing a “fall festival”-type of day. She would like to bring separate events together.

**TO DO: Jen offered to coordinate this effort.**

**FOLLOW UP: With Michelle Ryan about whether she will be able to get pumpkins from another farm.**

**TO DO: Jen plans on getting candy, pumpkins for all the little kids this year and (she believes) she expects to purchase a few new wooden games.**

**TO DO: Jen will talk with Ann Murphy about reimbursement.**

- c) **Special Program Budget** – Steve P. informed members that the Commission has \$700 in the special programs budget and \$300 in the sports program budget.

- Tom informed members that part of the sports program was football.

- d) **Field Requests** – Tom mentioned that the schools are starting their field requests. Soccer is starting up and travel trials for basketball will be next week.

- Steve P. inquired about engaging (with the contacts of) lacrosse, baseball and softball field usage. He wanted to follow-up with Rec. members about the Commission’s previous commitment to plan that field usage at an earlier date. Steve asked whether the Commission should confirm field usage in January or at the present time (as per inviting Lance Simon for November’s Rec. meeting).

- Agreement was reached to invite Lance, Steve Marotta, Gary Capazzi and Mike Gonzalez to the November meeting.

**TO-DO: Steve P. will send an email to all (the names listed above) inviting them to next month’s meeting.**

- e) **Grants** – Jerry inquired if - in addition to Greg Poliniak, Warren Casey and being on New Jersey GrantWatch - anyone had additional ideas about securing grants or hears of possible grants. Debate was temporarily put off concerning this issue in order to discuss the issue of dredging Pondside.

- f) **Leverage Open Space Funds / Dredging of Pondside**

- Steve P. mentioned that he had a conversation with Mayor Hoelscher about several issues concerning the Rec Commission – among which included field usage and the Pondside dredging project. Steve’s proposal was to pick a year – perhaps 2015 – and work toward building up the

Open Space fund, finding some grants and then **commit** to that future date to dredge. He said that his ideas fall under the umbrella of: “maintaining what we’ve got, as opposed to focusing on new things”.

- Steve P. said that it was likely that the Mosquito Commission would likely participate in the dredging, but there would be much more work involved (removal of items, other remediation, restocking the pond).
- Jerry mentioned that the Closter Nature Center recently dredged and that talking with people at the Center might be a good place to start.
- Tom suggested that the Rec. Commission reach out to the Environmental Commission and try to get them on-board with the ideas. His reasoning was that there will be testing and the issues will be: (1) what’s in the pond and (2) where will it be put. If dredging reveals heavy metals, then there would be a big issue there; better that it be tested ahead of time and have (the metals) put someplace to dry before it is taken away.

**TO-DO: Tom and Steve P. asked if Jerry could speak with Greg Poliniak concerning how the Rec. Commission can prepare for the testing (“frame” the issue with Poliniak – as per Jerry; possibly \$10,000 worth of testing – as per Tom). Jerry offered to find out what Closter Nature Center did with their dredging to gather the benefits of the process.**

**FOLLOW-UP: Allan said he can introduce the issue to Council at the next meeting. Allan would say to the Council that it is a topic that came up, that the Commission would go to talk to these different commissions to get more info and then go from there.**

#### **g) Recreation Commission Calendar/Handbook**

- Steve P. expressed concern about this one issue for any future newcomers (as members) to the Rec. Commission. Thus, he proposed a Recreation Commission Handbook to ease the learning curve for newbies – among other things, offering an overview of budgeting and financing, playbook for Town Day, got a calendar, got field request policies, town programs, Fishing Derby, Ragamuffin Parade, etc.
- Steve P. proposed that each current member create two pages to contribute as part of the Handbook. He offered to create his own overview of Commission finances.
- There was general agreement about conceiving the binder.

**TO-DO: Jen offered to “start out small” by purchasing/retrieving a single, big binder for November. She will have small sections throughout the binder where everyone’s materials can be placed (by Jen).**

#### **h) Field Projects**

- As per Steve P.’s conversation with Mayor Hoelscher (referred to earlier), the Mayor seemed generally supportive of using Open Space money for projects.
- Allan revealed that he spoke with Jack again at the meeting and the latter said that it was still under review; a decision is expected very soon. Allan mentioned that he did share the document that the Commission provided him.
- Steve P. said that he received proposals from Tri-State (contractor) to skin and re-do the infield at #3 Lower Highland. The proposed cost is \$10,000 for Field #3 and \$9,500 each for Fields 1 & 2. Another \$5,000 should be tacked on top of those numbers in order to work on the school woods (remediation).
- Allan asked how long it’s been since the fields were re-done. Steve P. responded that it’s been approximately five years.
- There was no verbal agreement when discussion turned to deciding whether or not to hold off on remediation until the Council’s decision on the use of Open Space funds.

#### **i) Walking Path Lighting Plan**

- As per the walking path lights plan, Allan mentioned that the Council briefly discussed the issue and there was concern about whether the building of lights would encourage people to be in the park at night (considering the curfew there).
- Steve P. specified that the lighting would **only** encompass the “loop” around the playground.
- The Neglia contract estimated that the loop would cost \$123,000 for lighting. Steve P. added that there would be a matching grant plus Open Space funds.
- Jerry mentioned that the Commission has a donation from an independent source (Community Parks) in town that would cover the grantwriter’s expense (8% of the project) and – likely – some sort of money left over that could be funneled into the project. (\$28,000 contribution).

**TO DO: Allan suggested that the Commission should have a presentation / document prepared for the Council's November meeting concerning the matching grant and lighting project.**

There was debate as to whether one of the Rec. Commission should attend the Council meeting. To move forward, the Commission needs to await permission from the Mayor and Council.

**FOLLOW UP: Steve M. asked Allan to go to the next Council meeting and get feedback from that meeting. Steve M. wanted Allan to mention to the Council that the Rec. Commission would like to get on their December calendar to talk about it in more detail (timelines, etc.).**

- Jerry mentioned that there is a definite matching grant process. The Rec. Commission was not allowed to bid on it...the Commission needed to get a cost workup. The "grantlady" essentially told him that the Mayor and Council need to give permission first, then she can take the project and "run with it".

**TO-DO: Jerry said that he could call the grantlady tomorrow (Wednesday, October 17).**

**j) Soccer Invoice**

- Steve P. mentioned that he would invoice soccer (Mitch Helfman) on November 1 for field use during 2012 (\$5,000).

MOTION TO ADJOURN – AGREED TO